II. *Part of a Letter from Mr.* Edward Floyd, Cim. Aſhm. Oxon. *To Dr.* M. Liſter, *giving an Account of* Locuſts *lately obſerved in* Wales.

SIR,

YOU have probably been already informed from ſome other Parts of the Kingdom, of ſwarms of *Locuſts* that have lately appeared on our *Britiſh* Coaſts. However becauſe I am not certain that they have been obſerved elſewhere, I ſhall take this Occaſion of giving you what Account I can at preſent, of ſome that have been ſeen in *Wales*. As far as I have been yet informed, they were firſt ſeen on the 20*th*. of *October*, ſcattered about the Fields in *Marthery* Pariſh, *Pembrokeſhire*, where they were generally taken notice of, at firſt, becauſe of the unſeaſonableneſs of the time for Graſhoppers; but afterwards, for that upon further Examination, they found them diſtinct from our *Engliſh* Graſhoppers, in bigneſs, colour, &c. I could not learn that any of them have been ſeen flying in that Country; but from *North Wales* I am informed that two vaſt ſwarms of them had been ſeen in the Air not far from *Dôl-gelheu*, a Market-Town of *Merionydh ſhire*. I cannot aſſure you of the time when theſe flying *Locuſts* were obſerved, but by the date of my Friend's Letter, &c. I gueſs that it was near the ſame time that thoſe others of *Pembroke-ſhire* had been taken notice of in the Fields. What part of the World theſe Creatures ſhould come from, I muſt leave to your Conjecture; in the mean time I can aſſure you that they are of the very ſame *Species* with ſome *African Locuſts* in my Cuſtody in the *Muſeum*; for which (and many other valuable Curioſities)

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ſities) we are obliged to that very Inquiſitive and Ingenious Gentleman, Mr. *J. Aubrey*, S. R. S. who received them ſome Years ſince from *Tangier*. As yet I have but one ſent me out of *Wales*, which you may Command if you pleaſe, for I expect ſhortly more of them.

This Pilgrim-Locuſt I call, *Locuſta erratica, alis ichthyocollæ adinſtar pellucidis, reticulatis maculis conſperſis.* It is in length (from the Head to the tips of the Wings) three Inches and ¼, of a reddiſh colour all over, except the Wings. As to the Head and *Caputium*, it reſembles the Fourth Figure of *Mouſetus*. The Eyes are prominent and very large, ſomewhat of the form and bigneſs of Gromwel-ſeeds, of a reddiſh colour, elegantly ſtreaked. The *Antennæ* are broken ſo that I can ſay nothing of the length of them: They are about the bigneſs of a Hog's briſtle, and curiouſly *geniculated*. As to the Legs, the firſt pair are not quite an Inch long; the ſecond, ſomewhat above that length; but the third two Inches and ¼. Theſe hind-legs are very beautiful; for the Thighs are hexangular, and elegantly ſcaled on the outſide, with a black Liſt extended lengthways through the midſt of them. The ſhanks are of a lively red colour, adorned on the hind-part with two orders of ſmall ſharp prickles, placed not oppoſite to each others, but alternately. The Wings are about three Inches long, reſembling very much thoſe of the larger *Libellæ*, or Dragon-flies, but all over garniſhed (the outer Wings at leaſt) with reticulated black ſpots.

I ſee not much reaſon to doubt but that theſe are the very ſame *Species* of Locuſts, ſo Famous in Hiſtory for their wandring over, and depopulating whole Regions.

In *Pliny*, *Lib. xi. c. xxix.* we find theſe words, ---*Solémque obumbrant ſolicitè ſpectantibus populis ne ſuas operiant terras. Sufficiunt quippe vires; & tanquam parum ſit maria tranſiſſe, immenſos tractus permeant, diraque meſſibus contegunt nube, multa contactu adurentes: Omnia*

vero

vero morſu erodentes, & fores quoque tectorum. Italiam ex Africa maximè coortæ, infeſtunt, ſæpe populo ad Sibyllina coacto remedia confugere, inopiæ metu. Now whether this *multa contactu adurentes* makes any thing for the firing of the Hay-ricks I queſtion. For I ſhould be apt to underſtand thoſe words, as if they meant only *Exarefaction*, and perhaps Poyſoning, not down right Firing or *Combuſtion*. See the following Letter, Numb. 4

Julius Obſequens in libro prodigiorum, p. 69. Edit. Baſ. 1599. *Locuſtarum ingentia agmina in Africa, quæ à vento in mari dejectæ, fluctibuſque ejectæ, odore intolerabili Cyrenis mortifero vapore gravem peſtilentiam fecerunt pecori, hominúmque* DCCC *millia conſumpta tabe, proditum eſt.*

I was ſuſpicious of this at the very firſt reading of Mr. *Jones* his Letter, and therefore writ to him the very ſame day I writ to you and Mr. *Ray*, to examine the Sea *Algæ* and *Fuci* for dead *Locuſts*.

The like Account alſo *Mouf.* cites out of *Otho Friſingenſis. — Tandem verò in Mare Britannicum ſublatæ ventorum vi, fluctibus obruebantur. Sed æſtu Oceani in litus rejectæ aërem infecerunt, peſtémque anteactâ fame non minùs ſævam intulerunt.* And which comes nearer to our purpoſe, in *Mouf.* p. 123. *Poſtea per Germaniam errantes ad Mediolanenſem uſque agrum iter ceperunt, eoque depaſto in Poloniam & Sileſiam revertebantur. Tandem Menſe* Novembri (*tam diu enim vixerant*) *at frigoris vi tabefactæ maximum fætorem excitarunt, & niſi ſuibus apriſque Sylveſtribus pabulo fuiſſent, non minus peſte graviſſimâ quàm fame tam Germanos quam Italos affeciſſet.* But in *Wales* there are no Creatures to devour them, unleſs the Badgers and Crows may take off ſome.